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› August 2020



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Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees classified by full-time/part-time workers, employment characteristics, fixed-term/independent contracts

Reference period August 2020

Released 11/12/2020

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Key statistics

- Median employee earnings have increased \$50 (4.5%) to \$1,150 per week since Aug 2019.
- 2.3 million casual employees (22% of employees), down from 2.6 million (24%) in Feb 2020.
- 1.0 million independent contractors (8.2% of employment).
- 14.3% of employees (1 million) were trade union members, down from 40% in 1992.

From August 2020, statistics from the Characteristics of Employment survey are now published in three topic-based releases. See:

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](#)
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-](#)

[arrangements/latest-release\)](#)

- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](#)

Characteristics of Employment data for 2014 to 2020 will be available in [TableBuilder](#) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6333.0.00.001Main+Features1August%202019>) from 16 December 2020.

TableBuilder enables the creation of customised tables and graphs.

Data downloads

These Characteristics of Employment spreadsheets are also available in the Data downloads section of the relevant [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#), [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-arrangements/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#) and [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#) releases.

Table 1a - Median earnings for employees by sex, state and full-time or part-time, 2004–2020

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[356.5 KB]

Table 1b - Median earnings for employees by sex, state and status of employment, 2004–2020

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Table 1c - Median earnings for employees by state, full-time or part-time and status of employment, 2004–2020

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Table 1d - Median earnings by full-time or part-time, state and trade union members in main job, 2004–2020

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Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics and full-time or part-time

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[205 KB]

Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

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Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

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Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

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Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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Table 7 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements

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Table 8 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics

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Table 9 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics

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Table 10 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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Table 11 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work, industry and occupation

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[158.5 KB]

Table 12 - Median earnings for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership

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[186.5 KB]

Table 13 - Median earnings for employees by status of labour hire and demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(125d701e9425b54c764340b5671b38cd_img.jpg\) **Download XLS**](#)
[\[255 KB\]](#)

Table 14 - Median earnings for employees by trade union membership

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) **Download XLS**](#)
[\[222 KB\]](#)

All 2020 data cubes

[!\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[1019.04 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics and full-time or part-time

[!\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[313.57 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

[!\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[462.9 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

[!\[\]\(dd161862f9164df98f62b726e9846241_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[278.88 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

[!\[\]\(fe3aebe81acea8d45108cd2768939da7_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[251.72 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

[!\[\]\(a8f9309f944226d1420f5fed22e2b6e6_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[298.66 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 7 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements

[!\[\]\(899d8b7697d64725bf017d3296cfcf1b_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[248 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 8 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(cbd8541a32dfc32f356f5c6c994b0a21_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[326.8 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 9 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(40770d9ed6ed4f1222ebf89a1396e8b2_img.jpg\) **Download ZIP**](#)
[\[270.96 KB\]](#)

Historical data: Table 10 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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[330.19 KB]

Historical data: Table 11 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work, industry and occupation

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Historical data: Table 12 - Median earnings for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership

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[114.72 KB]

Historical data: Table 13 - Median earnings for employees by status of labour hire and demographic characteristics

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[160.13 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0*.

Prior to 2014, statistics related to employee earnings, trade union membership and working arrangements were published in:

- [Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6310.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6310.0>) (catalogue number 6310.0)
- [Forms of Employment, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0>) (catalogue number 6359.0)
- [Working Time Arrangements, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6342.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6342.0>) (catalogue number 6342.0)
- [Locations of Work, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0>) (catalogue number 6275.0) (includes data on working from home)
- [Employment Benefits, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6334.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6334.0>) (catalogue number 6334.0)
- [Trade Union Members, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6325.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6325.0>) (catalogue number 6325.0)

*Note: Catalogue number 6333.0 was previously used for [Working Conditions, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-) (Preliminary) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb->

[May%201979?OpenDocument](#)), Feb to May 1979.

Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2020](#)